

REMARKS

Introductory Comments

The present amendments are in response to the Office Action mailed April 10, 2008, in which claims 1-15 were rejected. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action to render all claims patentable.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to more particularly set forth the claimed subject matter. In addition, claim 9 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 4 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable by *Marks et al.* (US Patent No. 7,094,121, hereinafter referred to as "*Marks*").

Regarding claims 1, 7 and 8, *Marks* discloses a control layer in a predetermined pattern of molecular components, the pattern defines at least one opening through said control layer, and the control layer molecular components has a silicon moiety and a hydrophobic terminus (see, e.g., claim 1 of *Marks*). However, *Marks* simply does not disclose disposing a hydrophobic layer between adjacent display pixels. According to the disclosure in *Marks*, the control layer is used to control the turn-on voltages and light emission of an electroluminescent rather than separating the pixels to avoid mixing of the liquid ink drops with electroluminescent material. Therefore, the *Marks*'s control layer is applied to an electrode or conductive layer (see, e.g., claim 1 of *Marks*). In comparison, the present application as set forth in claims 1, 4 and 7-10 requires the provision of a microcontact printed hydrophobic layer between the pixels to eliminate the need for photoresist banks, and to prevent mixing of the liquid ink drops with electroluminescent material and the need to smoothen the banks by an elevated temperature. Indeed, the microcontact printed hydrophobic layer as set forth claims 1, 4 and 7-10 functions very differently from that of the control layer in

Marks. Accordingly, there is simply no equivalence between the control layer of *Marks* and microcontact printed hydrophobic layer of the present application.

Moreover, the Examiner indicates that *Marks* discloses an electroluminescent display panel having a substrate and a plurality of display pixels. The Examiner further indicates that *Marks* discloses a luminescent medium between anode and cathode, and thus the luminescent medium is formed on the “anode substrate”, and deems that such corresponds to the limitation as defined in the present application with respect to the electroluminescent material defined on or over the substrate. Applicants concur that *Marks* discloses an anode which is separated from a cathode by an organic luminescent medium (see, e.g., Column 6, lines 9-11 of *Marks*). However, the anode in *Marks* cannot be deemed as the substrate as set forth in the claims of the present application. For instance, according to paragraph [0038] of the present application, the substrate is a glass substrate or a polymer substrate. Indeed, FIG. 4 clearly shows that the anode 8 is provided in the substrate 7. Therefore, the anode of *Marks* simply cannot correspond to the substrate as set forth in claim 1 of the present application.

In short, *Marks* does not disclose that the microcontact printed hydrophobic layer (11) is disposed between drops of the electroluminescent material (12) of adjacent display pixels (3) and prevents mixing of these drops between adjacent display pixels as defined in amended independent claims 1 and 8 from which claims 4, 7, 9 and 10 depend.

Regarding claim 4, the Examiner implies that the *Marks*' control layer is corresponding to the protection layer (6) of the present application. However, the Examiner has indicated that the control layer in *Marks* corresponds to the microcontact printed hydrophobic layer of the present application. It is therefore not reasonable to deem the same component in *Marks* as equivalent to two different components in the present application. Additionally, claims 4, 7, 9 and 10 are dependent on claims 1 and 8, respectively, and include various further limitations. Since amended

claims 1 and 8 are patentable for at least the reasons stated above, claims 4, 7, 9 and 10 should also be patentable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 3 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Marks* in view of *Sirringhaus et al.* (US Patent No. 6,808,972, hereinafter referred to as “*Sirringhaus*”).

Claims 2, 3 and 11-14 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 8, respectively, and include various further limitations. Since *Sirringhaus* fails to compensate for the above-stated deficiencies with respect to *Marks*, claims 2, 3 and 11-14 should be patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1 and 8.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Marks* in view of *Kim et al.* (US Patent Pub. No. 2003/0222267, hereinafter referred to as “*Kim*”).

Claims 5 and 6 are dependent on claim 1, and include further limitations. Since *Kim* also fails to compensate for the above-discussed deficiencies with respect to *Marks*, claims 5 and 6 are also patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Marks* in view of *Sirringhaus* and further in view of *Cox* (US Patent No. 6,166,439, hereinafter referred to as “*Cox*”) and *Chilkoti et al.* (US Patent Pub. No. 2003/0059537, hereinafter referred to as “*Chilkoti*”).

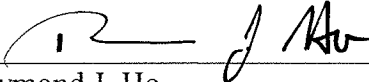
Claim 15 is indirectly dependent on claim 8, and includes further limitations. Since *Sirringhaus*, *Cox* and *Chilkoti* all fail to compensate for the above-discussed deficiencies with respect to *Marks*, claim 15 is also patentable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 8.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims as currently presented are in condition of allowance and hereby respectfully request reconsideration.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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